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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1315 W. 4th Avenue • Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018 • (509) 735-7581

February 12, 1997

Mr. James Rasmussen
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: A5-15
Richland, WA 99352

Mr. Kenneth Brog
Pacific Northwest National Laboratories
P.O. Box 999, MSIN: P7-79
Richland, WA 99352

Mr. Carl Sorensen
Babcock & Wilcox Hanford Company
2940 George Washington Way, MSIN: R3-56
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Messrs. Rasmussen, Brog, and Sorensen:

Re: Debris Waste Returned to the 324, 325, and 327 Buildings

Thank you for the assistance of the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL), and Babcock & Wilcox Hanford Company (B&W) personnel during the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) recent investigation of debris waste generated in the 324, 325, and 327 Buildings at the 300 Area of the Hanford Site.

Ecology's investigation revealed PNNL relied on conflicting information regarding designation of constituents within the debris waste streams from the 324, 325, and 327 Buildings. This problem was compounded by incomplete segregation of waste constituents that may designate as dangerous waste.

Although Ecology elects not to pursue enforcement at this time, we are concerned that this situation be corrected. USDOE, PNNL, and B&W must ensure their wastes are accurately designated according to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-170 and WAC 173-303-070. Therefore, Ecology requests (within thirty [30] days of receipt of this letter) USDOE, PNNL, and B&W submit a report to Ecology describing steps taken to accurately designate and segregate debris waste streams from the 324, 325, and 327 Buildings. Ecology expects this report by March 17, 1997.

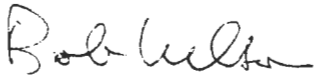


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Please do not hesitate to contact me at (509) 736-3031, if you have any questions regarding this letter. Should you require additional time to comply with this direction, Ecology must receive a written request for additional time by February 28, 1997.

Sincerely,



Bob Wilson, Compliance Inspector
Nuclear Waste Program

BW:sb
Enclosure

cc: Maple Barnard, USDOE
Richard Gonzalez, USDOE
Gary McNair, PNNL
Mark Riess, PNNL
Dave Rasmussen, B&W
Mary Lou Blazek, ODOE
Administrative Record

